A SUDDEN CALLING AMIDST THE STRING OF LOSS—
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THEIR UPPERCLASSMEN AI?!

# 誰も知らない塔のある町
## THE TOWER OF MYSTERION

#12 THE END OF THE BEGINNING, THE BEGINNING OF THE END

AUTHOR: AKAHORI SATORU ARTIST: TSUNEYOSHI
AUTHOR: INNAMI YUU

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# THE TOWER OF MYSTERION

AKAHORI SATORU & INNAMI YUU & TSUNEYOSHI

THE SUNSET'S REALLY PRETTY,
ISN'T IT, TANOSHI?
THAT MAKES SENSE
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT KINDA STUFF
HE USED TO BE THE KIND WHO'D STOP TO LOOK AT FLOWERS BESIDE THE ROAD...
.....

お好み焼き
あ
AWW! SHE'S SO CUTE!
SHE'S JUST LIKE YUKARI!
WE JUST CAME BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL
SO THIS THE IMPORTANT THING YOU HAD TO TELL US?!
WHAT? THIS IS IMPORTANT.
BOTTLE SAUCE
BOTTLE MAYO
ソース
マヨネーズ
YOU MADE ME SO WORRIED!
I WAS EXPECTING ANOTHER INCIDENT OR SOMETHING!
WELL, AT LEAST IT WAS A HAPPY SURPRISE, YOUSUKE...
SO YUKARI'S A MOM NOW...

ONE DAY YOU'LL BE A MOM TOO
ドン
THAT'S WAY TOO FAR IN THE FUTURE
WHAT'S HER NAME?
I WAS ACTUALLY STUCK ON THAT FOR A WHILE
I ENDED UP TURNING THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN LATE
出生届
BIRTH CERTIFICATE
平成 年 月 日 届出
長 殿
LAST NAME
FIRST NAME
BUT I FINALLY DECIDED ON ONE.
MIDORI? SO CUTE!!
AWW...
YOU WANNA TRY HOLDING HER?
ARE YOU SURE? I'M NOT SURE HOW.
JUST HOLD HER HEAD LIKE THIS

YOUSUKE, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TOO?
HUH?! ME?!
I'M FINE I'M SCARED I'LL DROP HER
YOU'RE GONNA BE A DAD TOO SOMEDAY! GROW A PAIR.
SEEING AS YOU'RE PLAYING AROUND WITH GIRLS ALL THE TIME, IT MIGHT EVEN HAPPEN SOON
HUH? I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND
HOW MANY GIRL-FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE NOW?
WHAT KINDA QUESTION IS THAT? I DON'T EVEN HAVE ONE!!
YOUSUKE SAID BEFORE THAT HE WON'T SETTLE FOR ONE GIRL-FRIEND
YOU TOO, TANOSHI? WHAT'RE YOU EVEN SAYING?

BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT.
YOU SAID YOU WERE BEING A "PHILANTHROPIST."
NO...
PLAYBOY AT YOUR AGE. YOU'RE SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR A LOT OF PAIN DOWN THE ROAD.
あぁ#
STILL THE SAME AS USUAL, HUH?
YOU-SUKE.
……!!
STOP IIIT!
!!

WHAT?!
OH YEAH! THIS OTHER DAY I MET A GIRL WHO SAID SHE WAS YOUR GIRL-FRIEND
WHY'RE YOU BEING SO STIFF?
OHH, SO YOU DO HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND! TELL US ABOUT HER!
WHO'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT WANNABE WOMAN! I DON'T HAVE ONE.
YOU GUYS GOT IT WRONG
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S OVERREACT-ING

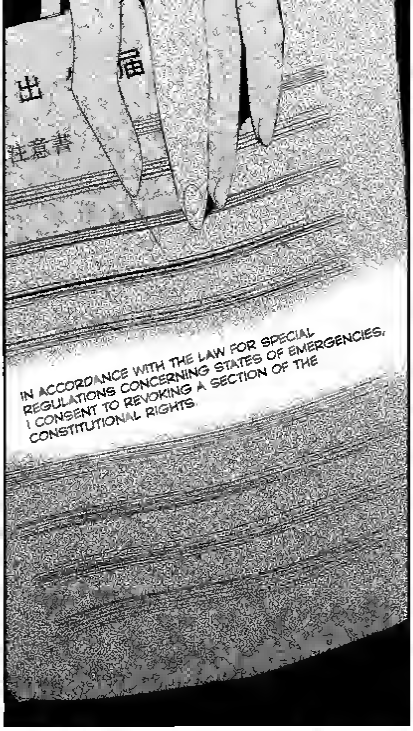
I MIGHT'VE FOOLED AROUND A BIT BEFORE...
BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT DESIRE ANYMORE
SO AFTER ALL THE INCI-DENTS STOP, ARE YOU GOING BACK TO THAT?
WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE
NO... I WON'T.
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT... SOMETHING LIKE WHAT SENA AND YUUHEI HAD IS GOOD
THAT WON'T COME BACK.
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT... SOMETHING LIKE WHAT SENA AND YUUHEI HAD IS GOOD
THAT'S WHY...

I'LL PROTECT HER.
...YEAH

SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT WILL MAKE ME SO POPULAR!
はは はっ!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL YOUSUKE.
SHUT UP!
カラッ
I WANT THINGS TO BE THE WAY IT WAS AGAIN.
WE WERE ALWAYS LAUGHING LIKE THIS.
THIS IS... NORMAL, ISN'T IT...?
AND FOR CUTE LITTLE MIDORI.
YEAH...
.....
...YEAH IT IS LET'S MAKE IT THROUGH THIS, FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE

WHY'S SHE HERE?!!
HOLD ON A SEC
DON'T POINT! SHE'S OUR NUMBER ONE CUSTOMER HERE.
YEAH! IF YOU LOVE OKONOMIYAKI, YOU AREN'T A BAD PERSON!
STILL...U
YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN BABIES, ARE YOU, OCCULT-GIRL?
AS A MYSTERY OF LIFE, THEY ARE CHARMING TO ME

SHE'S... CUTE.
I HOPE SHE DOESN'T BECOME A VICTIM.
OH SHOOT, IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY? MY HUSBAND'S COMING HOME!
I NEED TO GO OUT TO BUY SOME STUFF. COULD YOU LOOK OVER MIDORI FOR ME, AI?
GOT IT!
EAT PLENTY OF OKONOMIYAKI, EVERYONE!
EVERYTHING'S ON THE HOUSE TONIGHT
.....
YOU SHOULD EAT WITH US ONCE IN A WHILE, KONOE!


出届
注意書
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW FOR SPECIAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING STATES OF EMERGENCIES, I CONSENT TO REVOKING A SECTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

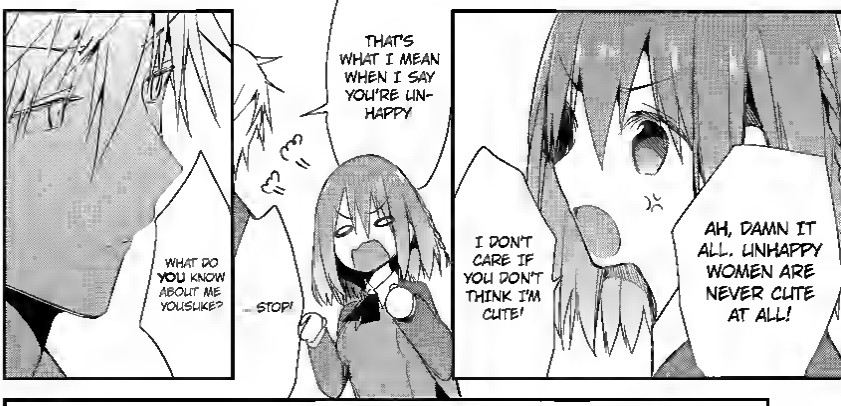
So you know
Yeah!
Ah ha ha!!

DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO, ITSUKI?
YEAH

I'M ALL GOOD

WHAT'S WITH THE DOOM AND GLOOM? YOU'RE GONNA MAKE EVERYTHING TASTE BAD
AH... SORRY!

QUIT PRETEND-ING TO BE TOUGH
BUT I'M NOT!
YOU SHOULD DEPEND ON OTHERS MORE


AH, DAMN IT ALL. UNHAPPY WOMEN ARE NEVER CUTE AT ALL!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T THINK I'M CUTE!
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY YOU'RE UN-HAPPY
STOP!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME YOU,LIKE?

A LOT OF THINGS I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU

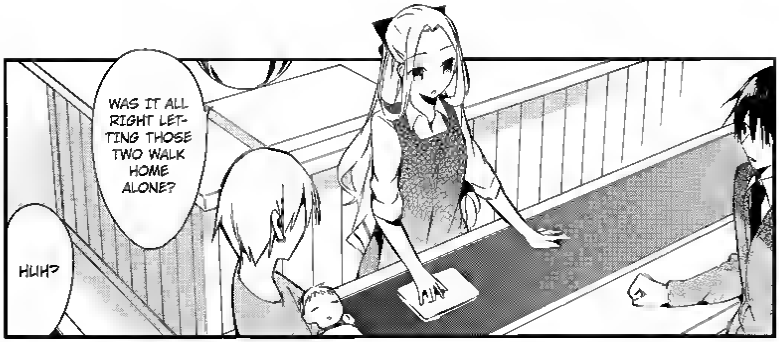
YOU-SUKE?
...BUT HOW COULD THIS KIND OF DISASTER...
EVEN 25 YEARS AGO, WE HAD THE ABILITY TO DETECT EARTHQUAKES TO SOME EXTENT
THAT'S TRUE, WE DID SEE IT COMING
WE PREPARED OURSELVES FOR THE EARTHQUAKE AND FIRES ON A NATIONWIDE SCALE
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE WEREN'T MANY FATALITIES FROM THE EARTHQUAKE ITSELF...
BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORESEE THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE VOLCANIC GAS
THAT WAS THE MOMENT WHEN MANKIND FELT THEY REACHED THE LIMITS OF SCIENCE
.....
THAT'S...

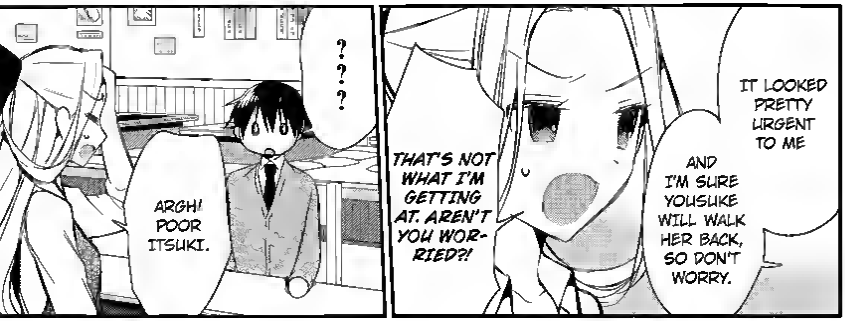
THAT...
IS WHY OUR NATION CAME UP WITH UNSCIENTIFIC MEASURES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE NEXT DISASTER
UNSCIENTIFIC...?
YES.
I'LL START FROM THE BEGINNING...
OKAY, OKAY. I GUESS EVEN IF YOU KNEW THE WORLD WAS ABOUT TO END, YOU'D STILL BE FRYING THEM WITH A SERIOUS LOOK ON YOUR FACE
LOOK, I TOLD YOU BEFORE. COOKING OKONOMIYAKI IS ALWAYS SERIOUS BUSINESS
ヤレヤレ...
OH, THERE IT IS! YOUR LITTLE IDIOSYNCRASIES ON OKONOMIYAKI
じゅっ!
THEY'RE NOT READY YET!!

ME TOO
I HAVE NO IDEA IF I'LL DIE TOMORROW, BUT THIS IS ALL VERY PRECIOUS TO ME...
ALL OF US JUST SITTING HERE, EATING TOGETHER.
I...
WOULDN'T WANT TO CHANGE WHO I AM. EVEN IF I KNEW I WAS GOING TO DIE TOMORROW.
YEAH. THE CRIMINAL WANTS US TO FALL INTO DESPAIR, BUT WE WON'T.
YUP.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'RE PROBABLY CLOSE TO FIGURING OUT THE TRUTH.
ぎゃ!!
.....
THEY'RE STARTING TO BURN
?
OH NO!!

HOW ABOUT LOOKING MORE HAPP—
WHOA!!
LOOK AT YOU, BLABBERING AWAY. YOU'RE HAVING FUN WITH US AREN'T YOU?
SEEMS YOU HAVEN'T FACED OFF AGAINST OKONOMI-YAKI ENOUGH.
SADNESS, FEAR, HARDSHIP... IF YOU TRY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF YOUR NEGATIVE EMOTIONS, YOU'LL NEVER REACH IT.
BUT ONCE YOU'VE REACHED THE FURTHEST TIP OF YOUR LIMITS,
THAT'S WHEN THE TINIEST SLIVER OF LIGHT STARTS TO FEELS WARM.
HEY...
YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE ELSE?
HUH?

WHAT'S UP?
THAT WAS PRETTY SUDDEN OF YOU.
.....
LET'S RUN AWAY TO-GETHER.
WHAT?
WHY?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WER-EN'T GOING TO RUN?
DO YOU EVEN WANNA LIVE?
OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
BUT TANOSHI AND SHI-NAKO ALS--
YOU'RE ALL I NEED.
I ONLY NEED YOU TO LIVE!
WHAT ARE YOU--

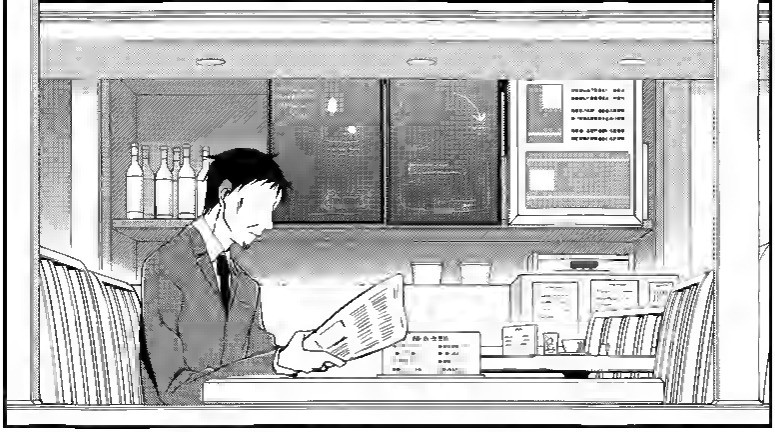

WAS IT ALL RIGHT LETTING THOSE TWO WALK HOME ALONE?
HUH?


???
ARGH! POOR ITSUKI.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M GETTING AT. AREN'T YOU WORRIED?!
AND I'M SURE YOUSUKE WILL WALK HER BACK, SO DON'T WORRY.
IT LOOKED PRETTY URGENT TO ME

THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE
AND I'M SURE YOU GUYS WILL FIND A GOOD TOMORROW EVENTUALLY AND GROW UP TO BE ADULTS
BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU GUYS, EVEN MIDORI, EVERY DAY
I GET YOU I'M SCARED SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN BECAUSE OF EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON
I'M .. SCARED OF TOMORROW.
IN THAT CASE, I AM OH-SO-EXCITED FOR TOMORROW...

AI, ARE YOU GOING TO START AN OKONOMIYAKI SHOP ONCE YOU GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL?
HMM... I'M NOT SURE.
AND JUST LIVING OUR FRIGHTENED LITTLE LIVES HERE IS...
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN.
BUT I WANT TO SEE MORE OF THE WORLD.
I'M SURE THE EARTH AND JAPAN, TOO, ARE BIGGER THAN THEY SEEM.
PLUS THERE SHOULD BE TONS OF EXCITING THINGS
WHEREVER WE ARE, FATE WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE US CRAZY.
AND NEW LIFE IS SIMPLY THE PRELUDE TO ANOTHER CATAS-TROPHE...

I'VE DECIDED.
I'M GONNA LEAVE THIS TOWN WITH YOU.
I'M FIXED ON IT ALREADY.
……



TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE 9.